Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A peptide of the formula: R^1-X^1-X^2-R^2

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine

X^2 is any amino acid residue;

R^1 is NH_2 - or an amino acid sequence X^3-X^4-X^5

wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues provided that the peptide is not Phe-Glu-Gly, Phe-Ala-Gly or Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly.

2. (Twice Amended) [The] A peptide of [claim 1] the formula: R^1-X^1-X^2-R^2

wherein X^2 is Glu or Ala;

R^2 is Gly-Gly;

R^1 is X^3-X^4-X^5 wherein

X^4 is Asp or Ala and

X^5 is Ile or Ala

6. (Amended) The peptide of claim [3] 2 having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:9);

[(b) Phe-Glu-Gly; and]

(b) Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly;

(c) Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly-Gly; and

[(c)](d) Phe-Glu-Sarcosine.

7. (Amended) [The[A peptide of [claim 1] the formula: R^1-X^1-X^2-R^2

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine;

X^2 is any amino acid residue;

R^1 is NH_2- or an amino acid sequence X^3-X^4-X^5

wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of [glycine,] sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.

8. (Amended) The peptide of claim [3] 1 wherein [R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid] R^1 is NH_2- and X^2 is Glu or Ala.

9. (Amended) The peptide of claim [1]2 wherein at least one amino acid is a D amino acid.

10. (Amended) The peptide of claim [4]6 wherein Phe and Glue or Ala are D amino acids.

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12. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide of [claim 1] the formula: R^1-X^1-X^{2}-R^2

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine

X^2 is any amino acid residue,

R^1 is NH_2- or an amino acid sequence X^3-X^4-X^5

wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (Amended) A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of [claim 1] the formula: R^1-X^1-X^{2}-R^2

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine

X^2 is any amino acid residue,

R^1 is NH_2- or an amino acid sequence X^3-X^4-X^5

wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acids residues which are the same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

14. (Amended) A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of [claim 1] the formula: R^1-X^1-X^{2-}-R^2

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine

X^2 is any amino acid residue,

R^1 is NH_2- or an amino acid sequence X^3-X^4-X^5

wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acids residues which are the same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

15. (Amended) A method of reducing or preventing an anaphylactic reaction in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a peptide of [claim 1] the formula: R^1-X^1-X^{2-}-R^2

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine

X^2 is any amino acid residue,

R^1 is NH_2- or an amino acid sequence X^3-X^4-X^5

wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acids residues which are the same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

Please add new claims 22-30 as follows:

--22. The peptide of claim 6 wherein at least one amino acid is a D amino acid.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of claim 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of the peptide of claim 2 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

26. A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of the peptide of claim 6 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

27. A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of the peptide of claim 2 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

28. A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of the peptide of claim 6 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

29. A method for treating or preventing an anaphylactic reaction in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of the peptide of claim 2 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

30. A method for treating or preventing an anaphylactic reaction in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of the peptide of claim 6 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.--